

BRITAIN'S
CRY FOR REFORM,
RETRENCHMENT,

AND

REDUCTION OF TAXATION.

BY A MIDDLE-CLASS MAN.

Truth shall restore the light.
Tyrants in vain ye trace the wizard ring ;
In vain ye limit Mind's unwearied spring ;
What! can ye lull the winged winds asleep,
Arrest the rolling world, or chain the deep?
No! The strong wave contemns your sceptered hand,
It rolled not back when Canute gave command!

Manchester :

A. HEYWOOD, OLDHAM STREET. LEEDS: D. GREEN.
BRADFORD: J. HAINSWORTH, AND W. COOKE. HUDDERS-
FIELD: J. RICHARDSON. HALIFAX: D. WILSON,
LORD, MIDGLEY, NICHOLSON AND WILSON.

1848.

BRITAIN'S CRY FOR REFORM, &c.

The mandate once addressed to the inspired prophet Ezekiel, seems in this eventful time to be addressed to every man possessing a reflecting and humane mind: "Go through the midst of the city, or *land*, through the midst of the nation, and set a mark upon the foreheads of them that sigh and cry for all the abominations that are done in the midst thereof." Ezek. ix. 4. Yes, "go forth," ye lovers of your country, go and observe the depression of commerce, the starvation of the poor, the luxury of the nobility, the determined procedure of government still to increase the burdens of the country, and their complete apathy in the midst of extreme national suffering;—"go forth," and the result of your inspection will be, "So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter." Eccle. iv. 1. The oldest inhabitant of this country cannot refer to any former period of his life when distress amongst the labouring population was so prevalent and so deeply felt. They do indeed "sigh," because they are "oppressed;" and the time has arrived when their sighing must be regarded. The shopkeepers—the middle class men, must regard it, they must lift up, and combine their voice with that of the suffering poor, that the dire calamities now existing in this country may be mitigated and removed. That distress does exist requires no elaborate proof. It will be acknowledged by all. We learn it from the thousands and tens of thousands in the manufacturing districts who have no work at all, and from vast multitudes who have only partial employment. It is affectingly indicated by nearly every Workhouse being full of paupers, and the vast amount of Out-door relief granted to the indigent; for instance, in Manchester the weekly average of paupers receiving Out-door relief is about 17,000 persons, whilst the workhouses and hospitals there are all full. Alas! this state of things exists nearly in every town! And yet, England possesses at this hour more wealth than any nation under heaven, while the great body of its people are becoming pauperized, ruined, and degraded, and are hourly sinking into deeper shades of misery. As a consequence of this pauperism, the Poor Rates have increased to an enormous amount, and are likely to become much larger, as the state of the poor gradually withers under the fell system of misrule and oppression. This, combined with the large amount of various local Taxation, is pressing heavily on shopkeepers, and will soon become intolerable, as their trade, for want of patronage from the labouring population, will gradually lessen. An argument this, for them to open their eyes immediately, and to make every constitutional effort to remedy the evil. Disastrous is the effect of such a state of things upon trade. Both the wholesale and retail dealer know this. It is seen in their diminished takings across their counters, in the number of debts in their ledgers, and the extreme difficulty, if not utter impossibility, of reclaiming them. The whole of society is affected, and the minds of men are racked and tortured by embarrassment. Even the funds of charitable institutions, hospitals for the sick, and the support of ministers of the gospel supported by voluntary contributions, and the expenses of their places of worship, are considerably affected. The advancement of religion itself is impeded, and the minds of its adherents are warped from the sublime purposes of their

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profession, by the corroding and harassing anxieties induced by this state of things. Poverty too is the source of crime. Look at the number of persons brought before local magistrates to receive conviction and condemnation, and it will be found that in many cases, poverty induced them to yield to temptation, and to become stained with crime. At any rate, poverty degrades man—depresses his energies—blunts his sensibility—corrodes his mind, and renders him irritable and vicious; and this is especially the case when that poverty is caused by the misrule of luxurious and tyrannical aristocrats, filthy-lucre loving priests, or wage-reducing Millocrats. Talk of Government Education indeed! Agitate the whole country by your Church of England Educational Bill to instil into the minds of the children of the poor your godfather and godmother system, and all your Puseyitish nonsense—your baptismal regeneration—confirmation, and other absurd and wretched dogmas, fit only for the dark ages. Give the tens of thousands who are now so wretchedly ill-fed, ill-clad, ill-housed, and ill-lodged—give them labour, and a just remuneration for their labour, and they will themselves cheerfully and promptly attend to the education of their children.—It is the opinion of many wise men that if the government and *aristocracy* do not yield to the pressure without, the time is coming when the existence of the middle class will be annihilated. And it really does seem as if society was verging towards that point. This is a fearful consideration, and calls, as with a voice of thunder, upon the middle class to abandon their present apathy, and to gird themselves in unflinching determination to effect the removal of the great national evils under which we groan, and constitutionally to demand that justice be done to the labouring classes, upon whom the middle classes are dependent. You may dream of returning prosperity as you please—you may ardently hope that the present gloom will in time pass away; but let one thing ever be present to your minds; it is this—The sun of prosperity is blackened, and emits no exhilarating and life-giving rays—the source of all wealth is dried up, while the operative classes of this country are being ground to powder! They are the foundation as it were of the National Pillar. Upon them are resting the middle classes, the wealthy, the nobility, the aristocracy—and royalty. Take away this broad base, and the column will fall. It is already giving symptoms of decay. You Millocrats—you tax-makers—you hireling priests—you aristocratic paupers, placemen, and pensioners—and even royalty itself—you have been so long hammering and chiseling at the base of that column, that the Revenue-Teller has already announced that it is not sufficiently strong to sustain the immense weight imposed upon it.

As it regards the *cause* of the national distress, the writer is willing to concede that the failure of the potatoe crops through disease, for several seasons, and the partial failure of the corn crops,—the mad and extensive speculation in Railways, which withdrew large sums of money from the regular channels of trade,—and the extensive speculation in Cotton, Wool, &c., have certainly contributed to the present embarrassment. But then as a nation, we ought to have been prepared by previous years of industry and improved circumstances, to sustain such a visitation as that of the potatoe disease. It is undeniable too that the rapid and extensive increase of machinery, and the export of it to foreign countries, must be regarded as another cause. It is not the intention of the writer to denounce Machinery in the abstract, nor would he stop the progress of the inventive powers of man; but still the system which monopolizes the fruits of that invention, and appropriates them to purposes of self-aggrandisement must be denounced as wicked and unjust. According to the re-

tio in which Machinery is at present increasing, it threatens ultimately to become the grand curse of the world. For when machinery is invented as a substitute for the labour of man, he reaps not the benefit; it is monopolized by the capitalist, while the labourer is by it deprived of employment, and probably is compelled to depend for subsistence upon the Poor Rates. In how many thousands of instances has this been the case! The operatives suffer severely through this unjust misapplication; but they are not the only sufferers. All the rate-payers groan under the effects of it. The middle classes, the shopkeepers, &c., have to support thousands of paupers which a monopoly of the benefits of machinery has created. The improvements which have been made, and are still making, in Worsted and Cotton Machinery—the recent invention of improved Stocking Machinery—the Machine to comb Wool, &c., &c., threaten to annihilate the labour of thousands. And the capitalist is to reap all the advantages of these inventions. Wonder not then at the state of the country. The most superficial mind may discover in these things, one grand cause of the utter distress in which the labouring classes are involved.

The labouring population have suffered severely by frequent *reduction of wages*, and from the disposition now exhibited by many masters, there is no telling when they will cry, Enough! It is granted that reduction of wages may, sometimes, be necessary; but has it not in many cases been prompted by selfishness? The determination of one Manufacturer to undersell another, and, Leviathan-like, to swallow up the little Manufacturers, has fallen with a ponderous weight upon the operatives. The extreme desire for luxurious living—for the erection of splendid mansions—and to amass splendid or princely fortunes for themselves and their heirs, has in many instances, in a great measure, been effected at the expense of the workpeople. Have they had extraordinary expenses—have they contemplated enlargement or improvement of their Manufactories, or have they made bad debts? Then grind down the wages as an indemnification for the same. It has become the general opinion that the Income Tax imposed upon Millicrats and others, has been transferred from them to the operatives, and that they have become, by diminished wages, the indirect payers of that odious Tax. Whatever has been likely to burden the master, whatever has threatened his exchequer, has thus undergone a wicked transfer. It would be very easy to give statistics of the amount of wages to prove that thousands of British workmen are reduced to the most awful slavery. No philanthropist, no man of ordinary humanity, no one who breathes the spirit of a patriot, no lover of justice, can contemplate the meagre remuneration given for man's servitude, without deep commiseration, and abhorrence of that cruel system which is grinding the poor to death. If such a system continues much longer, a bold peasantry, the nation's pride, will be reduced to a state of complete pauperism, and physical decrepitude. Is it not shocking that able-bodied men in Factories and other places, are receiving no more than four, five, or six shillings per week, and that such is the destitution of thousands out of employment, and their eagerness for bread, that they would readily compete with them by taking their place at less wages? In some parts of Lancashire, there are men weaving 20 yards of Calico for 4½d, which will occupy each at least a day, and out of that they have to pay for soap, &c., necessary for the working of the cloth. These specimens of hardship, from the vast mass of statistics which might be furnished, prove that the working people are sadly oppressed; and this ought to be regarded as an apology for that violence which they occasionally manifest. "Op-

pression," says Solomon, "will make a wise man mad." Do not wonder then that starving men are excited, but rather admire their patience, and try to imagine how you would feel and act if you were placed in their circumstances. "By reason of the multitude of oppressions they make the oppressed to cry; they cry out by reason of the mighty." Job 35. 9.

And yet, strange to say, some of their oppressors profess the religion of Christ—go to Church or Chapel—believe in the golden law of love—admire Christ's cause, and give their (query, the workpeople's) money to promote its advancement. But such men are surely under a strong delusion. They say, "Lord, Lord," but do not the things which Christ has commanded. They cannot have studied the grand precepts of the Redeemer: "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself,"—"thou shalt do unto others as thou wouldst have others to do unto thee." The morality of the Bible is sympathy for the poor—compassion to the destitute—weeping with those who weep, and distributing to their necessities. It denounces all want of feeling and hardness of heart—it thunders its voice against all tyrants! It gives its commandment, saying, "Thou shalt not oppress an hired servant that is poor and needy, whether he be of thy brethren, or of the strangers that are in thy land within thy gates; thou shalt give him his hire; for he is poor, and setteth his heart upon it, lest he cry against thee unto the Lord, and it be a sin unto thee." Deut. xxiv. 14, 15. It utters its warning, and says, "Rob not the poor because he is poor; (take no advantage of his circumstances) neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: for the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them." Prov. xxii. 22 "This is the heritage of the oppressors which they shall receive of the Almighty; though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare the most costly raiment; he may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver. He buildeth his house as a moth, (which has been extracted from the bones and sinews of man.) God shall cast upon him and not spare; he would fain flee out of his hand. Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place." Job 27. 13. Let the ministers of religion learn hence how God regards oppression of the poor. It is high time for them to advocate their cause like the prophets of old. By their apathy—by their paying homage to the great and the wealthy, the prejudice of the working population against them has become deeply seated. Lift up your voice then like a trumpet against every encroachment on the rights of the people, or it will be apparent that you are reckless of an important function of your office—"to warn every man, and to rebuke, exhort and teach," and to **DECRY OPPRESSION**. If you do not, how will you face your Judge?

Let us now refer to the government of the country. The governors of it for ages past have ruled not to benefit the people, but for their own interests. They have sacrificed the interests of the nation for their own aggrandisement. The history of their legislative career, for a long time, is, with slight exceptions, the history of tyranny and oppression—the history of deliberate plunder—the plunder of the feeble and the poor, and hence may be traced the principal cause of the afflictions of the land. Mark the following sums extorted from the pockets of the people:—

The Queen, her Majesty's Privy Purse, besides Buckingham Palace, St. James's Palace, Windsor Castle, and the Royal Pavillion, Brighton ..	£. 60,000
The great Officers of the Royal Household and Officers of state, and of the Establishment of the various departments of the household, including the retired and superannuation allowances to old servants, in these departments	131,200

Expenses of the household in the departments of the Lord Chamberlain, Lord Steward, Master of the Horse, and Mistress of the robes	L. 172,500
Royal Bounties and Charities, and special Service, &c.,	23,000
Pensions and unappropriated money	83,000
Total	470,000
H. R. H. Prince Albert, being his privy purse for secret services and other offices	40,000
Ernest, Duke of Cumberland, (now King of Hanover,) with Kew Palace, ..	21,000
The Duke of Cambridge	21,000
Prince George of Cambridge	6,000
Princess Augusta, his sister, married June 28, 1844, to H. R. H. Frederick William, Hereditary Grand Duke of Mecklenburg Strelitz,	5,000
H. R. H. Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester,	13,000
H. R. H. Princess Sophia, with Greenwich Palace and Park, (.....	13,000
The Trustees of his Majesty Leopold, King of the Belgians, widower of her late Royal Highness Princess Charlotte, daughter of George 4th, with Claremont Palace,	50,000
Her Majesty Adelaide, the Queen Dowager, (relict of Wm 4th,) besides the Royal Manor and Palace at Hampton Court, the Park and Domains of Bushy, and also Marlborough House in Pall Mall, (two Parks and three royal palaces,)	100,000
H. R. H. the Duchess of Kent, (mother of her Majesty the Queen,) with Frogmoor Lodge, Windsor,	32,000
The Duchess of Inverness, (relict of his late Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex,) with Kensington Palace,	10,000
Total in this Branch	£781,000

LORD CHAMBERLAIN'S ESTABLISHMENT.


The Lord Chamberlain, £2,000; Vice-Chamberlain, £924; eight Lords-in-waiting, £5,616; eight Grooms-in-waiting, £2,685; first Lady of the Bed-chamber, (mistress of the robes,) £500; seven Ladies ditto, £3,500; eight Maids of Honour, £2,400; eight Bed-chamber Women, £2,400; corps of Gentlemen-at-arms, £5,129; corps of Yeomen of the guard, £7,150; Order of the Garter, £502; Order of the Bath, £419; Kings and Heralds-at-arms, besides fees, £355; Sergeant-at-arms, £1,556; Chaplains and Preachers, £1,236; Medical Establishment, £2,705; Gentlemen Ushers, Grooms, pages, &c., £7,570; Master of Music and Band, £1,916; Officers of Furniture, &c., £5,812; Surveyor of Pictures and principal Painter, £500; Bargemasters and Watermen, £100; Comptroller of Accounts, Clerks, and Messengers, in the Lord Chamberlain's Office, £3,110; Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Windsor Castle, £1,295; retired and superannuation allowances, £7,560. Total in this Branch £67,376

LORD STEWARD'S ESTABLISHMENT.

The Lord Steward, £2,000; Treasurer, £904; Comptroller, £904; Master of the Household, £1,158; Secretary, Paymaster of the household, Clerks, Office-keepers, and Messengers, £2,920; Ranger of Windsor Home Park, (H. R. H. Prince Albert,) £500; allowances in lieu of table money, £1,676; domestic servants in the ewry, wine, and beer cellars, clerk of the kitchen's office, kitchen's confectionery, pastry, table-deckers, &c., £9,938; knights, marshals, marshal-men, &c., £1,924; chaplains, £3,535; superannuation and bounties, £6,365. Total in this Branch £31,821

MASTER OF THE HORSE'S ESTABLISHMENT.

Master of the Horse, £2,500; chief equerry and clerk marshal, £1,000; four equeries, £3,000; four pages of honour, £460; secretary and clerks of stables, £1,500; inspector and veterinary surgeon, £600; equerry of the crown stables, £445; master of the hounds, £1,700; coachmen, grooms, footmen, &c., £12,563; superannuation allowances, £2,766. Total in this Branch £26,531
Making in the whole £906,731

 The above is exclusive of the household of H. R. H. Prince Albert.

PRINCE ALBERT has an English annuity of £30,000; is a field marshal, £2,000; colonel of Scotch Fusilier Guards, £1,200; and a whole host of other useless offices: President of the Anti Slavery Society; (query, Anti Slavery) joint owner of English slaves. Estates, Norfolk Farm, near Windsor; dog kennels, and hare preserves, besides a share of all the royal palaces and parks of Great Britain and Ireland. German estates, none!!!!!!

Study the following in conjunction with the Hand Loom Calico Weavers of Manchester:—

BILL OF FARE for the Royal Household for one year. Bread, £2,050; butter, bacon, cheese, and eggs, £4,976; milk and cream, £1,478; butcher's meat, £9,472; poultry, £3,363; fish, £1,979; grocery, £4,644; oilery, £1,793; fruit and confectionery, £1,741; vegetables, £487; wine, £1,850; liqueurs, &c., £1,843; ale and beer, £2,811; wax candles, £1,977; tallow candles, £679; lamps, £4,166; fuel, £6,849; stationery, £821; turnery, £376; braziers, £890; china, glass, &c., £1,328; linen, £1,085; washing, table linen, &c., £3,130; plate, £500.

LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.

						Per Year.	Per Day.
Queen Victoria	....	....	....	....	....	£170,000 or	1287 13 5
Prince Albert	....	....	....	....	....	30,000 or	82 3 10
Queen Adelaide	....	....	....	....	....	100,000 or	273 9 5
Duchess of Kent	....	....	....	....	....	30,000 or	82 3 10
Duke of Cumberland	....	....	....	....	....	21,000 or	57 10 8
Archbishop of Canterbury	....	....	....	....	....	20,000 or	54 15 11
Lord Brougham	....	....	....	....	....	5000 or	13 15 11

And many others with the same salary as Lord Brougham.

NOW LOOK ON THIS PICTURE.

Agricultural Labourers' Annual and Average Daily Wages.

						Per Year.	Per Day.
Gloucestershire	..	..	..	..	..	£22 15 0 or	£0 1s 2d½
Somersetshire	..	..	..	..	..	22 15 0 or	0 1s 2d½
Worcestershire	..	..	..	..	..	22 15 0 or	0 1s 2d½
Wiltshire	..	..	..	..	..	20 16 0 or	0 1s 1d½

Whilst mournful to relate, thousands of clever and willing artizans of every trade have not even that, because they are under the ban and curse of money—the centralizing tendency of which must ever crush them.

The scriptural sentiment is beautiful; “The labourer is worthy of his hire;” but the hire ought to be accompanied by labour; the two things ought not to be dissevered. Granted that it would not be proper to allow the widow of a monarch to be in want, would not £5000 per annum be a most munificent sum for a queen dowager, who receives nominally £100,000 per annum, but whose real cost to the nation, including the expense of the journeys abroad, the packets placed at her majesty's service, &c. &c., is not less than £200,000 yearly. And remember this woman is a decided enemy to the people—she did all she could to persuade her husband, William the Fourth, not to grant the Reform Bill. There is the young Prince of Wales, now in his seventh year, who derives a very large revenue from Cornwall, and who has his court, and all the paraphernalia of an embryo king, which would be very amusing if the royal family had estates of their own.

Thus we see how the people's money goes. Every item is an argument for the reduction of the Expenditure. Look again,

ANNUAL PENSIONS for the education of Royalty:—

Rev. Henry Barez, her Majesty's German Teacher,	....	....	....	£100
Signor Giuseppe Guazzaroni, her Majesty's Italian Teacher,	....	....	....	50
John Bernard Sale, Esq., her Majesty's Singing Master,	....	....	....	100
Thomas Steward, her Majesty's Writing Master,	....	....	....	100
Monsieur Francois Grandineare, her Majesty's French Master,	....	....	....	100
Mrs. Lucy Anderson, her Majesty's Music Mistress,	....	....	....	100
Madame Sarah Matilda Bourdin, her Majesty's Dancing Mistress,	....	....	....	100

Look again at the man who boasts that he has passed the *greatest portion of his life in honour!*—

The Duke of Wellington	....	....	....	....	4,000	0	0
As Field Marshal	....	....	....	....	2,000	0	0
— Commander-in-Chief	....	....	....	....	6,016	2	6

— Colonel of Grenadier Guards	....	....	....	....	1,200	0	0
— Colonel of Rifle Brigade	....	....	....	....	238	15	3
— Governor of Walmer and Dover Castle	....	....	....	....	474	10	0
— Governor of the Tower	....	....	....	....	947	9	7

May 1st, 1814, Wellington was created a Duke with an annuity of £13,000, and on the 8th of November, 1817, the estate of Strathfieldsay, was bought for him from Lord Rivers, for £263,000. Generous parliament! Another Parliament, 1822, generously gave 300,000 for prize money in the Peninsular war. The Duke got the lions' share. He has cost us above a Million in hard cash!

The following is a specimen of the many everlasting pensions which the nation is doomed to pay!—

Lord Rodney and Dowager Lady Rodney	..	..	..	..	each	£1,000
The Parliament for his conquest of the French 71 years ago gave him and his heirs <i>for ever</i> , a peerage and £1,000 per Annum; this disgraceful perpetuity has cost us £136,000!						
Earl Camperdown, and Lord Abercrombie, and their heirs, each	..	..	..	..	£2,000	
These two have already taken from the tax-bag £239,000						
Lord Morley, and Edward Viscount St. Vincent, and Admiral Sir John Jervis, each	..	..	..	..	3,000	
The latter has already received £120,000						
Horatio Earl Nelson	..	..	..	..	2,000	
(Brother to the Admiral—he is a parson, and has already taken out of the tax bag £84,000. Then we have Frances, and Dowager Countess, who have received £126,000 in all. The Nelsons have cost in the whole, £210,000.						
Viscount Lake, Lord Beresford, Lord Combermere, Lord Exmouth, and Lord Seaton, each	..	..	..	..	2,000	

Here are 12 men, who at the least calculation in fixed pensions have received no less a sum than £2,135,000, being more than all the Poor Rates of Ireland and Scotland together.

The pensions for civil services is a flagrant exhibition of lavish expenditure. The following will give a specimen:—

Granville Penn, Esq. £4,000 per annum, has already received 228,000. Lord Colchester, 3,000, received 87,000 besides his Salary as Speaker for 17 years, 87,000. Lord Bexley 3,000, altogether received 90,000. Lord Glenelg, 2,000, altogether 28,000. Viscount Canterbury, 3,000. Manners Sutton has received 36,000 besides 17 years' pay. Geo. Canning 3,000: his son and widow have received 60,000 from the tax bag. Spencer Percival, late Teller of the Exchequer, 2,700. Right Hon. Hen. Ellis, 1,400. Sir Henry Pottinger, 1,500. Lord Brougham, the man who once promised so much reform and retrenchment to the Electors of the West Riding of Yorkshire, 5,000; already he has pocketed 65,000, besides 40,000 for salary as Ld. Chancellor, total 105,000. Lord Lyndhurst and Lord Cottenham, each 2,500. Sir Thomas Erskine and Sir J. B. Bosanquet, each 3,500. The Right Hon. C. Shaw Lefevre, Speaker of the House of Commons, 5,000. His Serene Highness the Prince of Mecklenburgh Strelitz, 1,789. He is quartered upon Ireland, and for 49 years has been feeding upon the industry of the people. With a great many others of the same useless tribe.

The Salaries paid to the officers of Courts of Justice are enormous, amounting to £101,350. Irish Court of Chancery, 21,790 11 6. Court of Queen's Bench, 16,180 13 4; with a vast number of other extravagant salaries.

For Civil Contingencies, such as expenses of outfit of Ambassadors, settling disputes						
Governors, &c.	..	..	..	..	£51,653	13 10
Public Buildings and Royal Palaces	..	..	..	..	117,989	
Buckingham Palace, and Palm House at Kew,	-	-	-	-	55,500	
Houses of Parliament, temporary,	-	-	-	-	17,709	
Home Office, Board of Trade, &c.,	-	-	-	-	4,429	
Holyhead Harbour, Roads, &c., Harbours of Refuge, Caledonian Canal,	-	-	-	-	174,429	
Salaries for Public Departments—Two Houses of Parliament,	-	-	-	-	25,000	
Treasury, from which Lord John Russell has £6,000, Sir C. Wood, 5,000, &c.,	-	-	-	-	56,900	
Secretary of State, Home Department, and Foreign Ditto,	-	-	-	-	87,400	

From this Sir G. Grey has £5,000, his two under Secretaries, £3,500; Lord Palmerston, 5,000, and his under Secretaries, 3,500.

Privy Council and Office, Marquis of Lansdowne, President,	-	-	-	-	37,700	
Lord Privy Seal, 2,000. Paymaster General, 26,722. Exchequer and Paymaster of Civil Services, 15,823. State Paper Office, 2,650. Ecclesiastical Commissioners	-	-	-	-		

of England, 3,140, with Secretary at £1,000, his assistants at 560, and seven Clerks.			
Poor Law Commissioners, Auditors of Unions, Schoolmasters, and Medical Relief,			
in the whole they have had	-	-	182,200
Secret Service, (Men love darkness rather than light,)	-	-	39,000
Salaries to Ambassadors, about	-	-	226,250
Expenses of the visits and entertainment of Foreign Princes, &c.	..	5,823	11 0
For gold medals, experimental journeys, and the jaunts of Bishops	..	2,514	14 9
Gew-gaw Tomfoolery, as robes, badges, repairs of crown, trumpets, com-			
missions various, letters patent	..	15,688	15 1
Yeomanry cavalry, as voted by Parliament	..	82,375	0 0

THE WAR SYSTEM.

PEOPLE OF ENGLAND! meditate on the following facts, and then ask if you ought not to promote Peace and Retrenchment. 1st.—That the entire annual cost of the civil Government is but about $6\frac{1}{2}$ millions of money; but the War estimates for the year 1847, are—For the Army, £6,840,074, for the Navy, £7,561,876, for the Ordnance, £2,679,127, Miscellaneous, 3,750,000, making a total of £20,831,077; and during 32 years of Peace, our War Establishments have cost us upwards of 500 millions of money. 2nd.—That the Interest of the War Debt, otherwise called the National Debt, is for the present year, £28,045,000; and that, since the Peace in 1815, we have paid in this way the enormous sum of more than 1,000 millions of money. 3rd.—That out of every 20s you pay in taxation, 2s. 6d. only is required for the support of the civil government, while the remaining 17s. 6d. goes to pay or provide for War. And 4th.—That in the present House of Commons, there are about 150 members who are military or naval men, or who have a direct interest in maintaining the War system.

Grand Total of Pensions and Superannuations.

Customs Department	..	£120,645	10 8
	To Widows and Children	4,507	0 10
Customs, Ireland, Superannuation and retiring allowances	..	20,213	7 5
	To widows and children and charity fund	1,877	13 11
Excise, Retiring allowances of Excisemen	..	124,416	14 8
	To Irish Officers in England and Superannuated Excisemen	1,187	0 1
	To Officers and Seamen of Cruisers, and widows and children	9,258	13 11
„ Ireland, Superannuated allowances	..	12,756	7 8½
	Widows and children, and Charity pensions	2,113	4 0½
Stamps, Superannuated allowances	..	4,709	3 3
Taxes, Superannuants and retired allowances	..	9,871	4 0
Post-Office, ditto	ditto	11,129	3 11½
	Allowed to Wounded Men and widows of seamen	506	15 4½
	To his Dis-Grace the Duke of Malbro'	4,000	0 0
	To his Dis-Grace the Duke of Grafton	3,407	10 0
	To the heir of his eternal Dis-Grace the Duke of Selhomberg	2,900	0 0
Post Office, Ireland, Superannuated allowances	..	2,894	17 2
Woods and Forests, ancient pensions to schools, churches, &c.	..	13,274	6 3½
	Scotch annuities for Judicial offices	1,060	5 0
The great Pensions and Annuities of Royal family, naval and military			
great guns, ex-judges, &c.	..	531,818	8 5
Pensions granted by I. Victoria, cap. 2. and Pensions to Ambassadors	..	41,346	9 11
Navy, Military and Civil pensioners in the Navy	..	642,870	0 0
	Retired allowance of Captains of Packet Service	7,500	0 0
Army, Half-pay and Military allowances to retired officers	..	326,000	0 0
	Pensions, widows of officers, and Out pensioners of Chelsea	1,195,550	0 0
	Half-pay and allowances, commissariat department	32,404	0 0
	Full-pay for retired officers	46,900	0 0
	Half-pay and allowances for disbanded foreign corps, pensioners,	38,000	0 0
	Compassionate list, pensions to wounded officers	82,000	0 0
	Superannuated and retired allowances to officers in civil depart.	30,000	0 0
Civil Service, Superannuation and allowances	..	80,800	0 0
	Toulonese and Corsican emigrants, American Loyalists	5,500	0 0
	Polish refugees and Spanish emigrants	11,500	0 0
	Charitable allowances on consolidated fund, Ireland	7,356	0 0
	Relief of Sufferers, by fire at St. Johns	30,000	0 0

The above sums form part of the DEAD WEIGHT resting upon the Currency and crushing the Country.

EXPENSES OF THE CHURCH AND CLERGY.

The following enormous sums taken by Anti-Christian Parsons reveals a system of monstrous avarice and vile hypocrisy. Compare such proceedings with the arrangements of the primitive church, as exhibited in the New Testament, and they will be found the very antipodes of them. Does religion—the simple religion of the gospel, that matter which concerns God and man alone—does that simple, yet important affair, require such expense—such splendour—such ridiculous paraphernalia—such gew-gaw-tom-foolery? Even children laugh at it, and these white-lawned fellows are transparent even to the most ignorant. Money—money—money—give—give—give for ever, is all these reverends and right reverend fathers in God care about. It may well be said, “The love of money is the root of all evil,” and so it is here. Religion is brought into disrepute—its advancement is impeded—infidelity is created—and the people, against their minds, are deprived of their money. Shame, shame, upon such men. Compare their spirit with that exhibited by the Apostle Paul:—“I have coveted no man’s silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, you yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me.—Acts xx. 33, 34.

Revenue of Bishops, of Cathedrals, of Benefices, of commuted tithes	6,844,800	0	0
Estates of Dean and Chapter	494,000	0	0
Archbishops and Bishops	294,000	0	0
College and School foundations	682,150	0	0
New Churches and Chapels since 1837	945,565	0	0
Burial, Marriage, and Christening-fees	500,000	0	0
Lectureships	60,000	0	0
Chaplainships and Offices	10,000	0	0
Perpetual Curacies	73,000	0	0
Benefices not Parochial	32,450	0	0
Oblation Offering	80,000	0	0

Making the enormous sum for England and Wales	£10,015,965	0	0
“ “ “ Ireland	2,120,000	0	0

Gross (and very gross) Total .. £12,135,965 0 0

To a population in England and Wales of 15,911,646, being considerably more than the cost of the Pensioners and Royal family; more than all the Local Taxation of England, Ireland, and Scotland; more than the cost of the whole American Government; more than all the Church establishments in Europe!

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

Russia	60,000,000 of people	£ 500,000
France	36,000,000 „	1,400,000
Holland	3,250,000 „	160,000
Belgium	4,500,000 „	160,000
Total	103,750,000	£2,220,000

Add Austria, Prussia, Spain, Portugal, the German States, Greece, and Northern Europe 112,000,000 of people with church establishment, costing altogether 4,480,000

Total for all Europe! .. £6,700,000

The cost of the English Law Church .. £12,135,965
 „ all the Churches in Europe .. 6,700,000

Balance in favour of English Parsons .. £5,435,965

Church property ought to be appropriated to the purposes of education, and the relief of the poor. We see that millions annually go into the hands of the clergy, and millions more which they once received, are now enjoyed by the aristocracy and other laymen. All the property belongs to the public, and should be disposed of according to the public will. A great part of it was originally given for purposes of charity, and for the relief of the poor. At present it is worse than wasted. It is enjoyed by persons who are real plagues to the community—who sit in the House of Lords to oppose, with all their might, the just rights of the people. It is a mighty bribe employed by the government to secure the services of the clergy on their behalf. It is high time for the people to call for a better and more honorable appropriation of wealth.

REVENUE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

The public revenue of the *United Kingdom*, amounted according to the returns

made up to July 5, 1847, £51,060,109. The items were as follows:—

Customs	£18,792,348	Excise	12,733,998.	Stamps	7,201,797	38,728,143
Taxes	4,325,732	Property Tax	5,491,936	Post Office	851,000	19,671,668
Crown Lands	112,000	Miscellaneous	307,621			319,621

Total ordinary Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	49,819,432
Imprest, &c.	435,834	Repayments	804,813	-	-	1,240,677

Total Income	-	-	-	-	-	51,060,109
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But in stating the public revenue of the *British Empire*, the following must be included;—

Asiatic Possessions	-	-	-	-	-	20,000,000
The Church	-	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
County Rate	-	-	-	-	-	7,000,000

To this add the Revenue of the United Kingdom	-	-	-	-	-	51,060,109
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Total 88,060,109

This is as much as is spent in the Government temporal and spiritual of France, Russia, Austria, Prussia, Holland, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, united.

THE NATIONAL DEBT OF BRITAIN.

Great Britain	..	..	..	..	..	726,876,902	4	0 $\frac{3}{4}$
Ireland	..	..	..	..	..	39,941,554	12	11

Capital called National Debt	..	..	..	..	..	766,818,456	16	11 $\frac{3}{4}$
Transferred to names of Commissioners	..	..	..	..	..	2,210,172	11	10

Capital unredeemed never-to-be-paid-off-Debt	764,608,284	5	13 $\frac{3}{4}$
Annual Charge of Debt due to the public creditors	27,511,554	12	0 $\frac{1}{4}$
Management of this great National Tumour	91,670	5	2

Grand Total of the Interest of the Debt	..	£27,603,224	17	2 $\frac{1}{4}$
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* * * *The Estimates are for the Year ending 1817. Some of them have been taken from Richardson's Annual Black Book, Published by A. Heywood, Manchester, a work which ought to be in the hands of every Reformer.*

Free Trade itself must prove injurious to this country, unless there be retrenchment and a reduction of taxes. It is impossible for England to compete with Foreign Manufacturers without it. Even already goods are being imported from the Continent at a much less price than they are manufactured at in England, the very tendency of which will be to injure the trade of this country. When Mr. Cobden proposed the repeal of the Corn Laws, he was warned of the effect without a reciprocity of intercourse. He was told if he could not reduce the taxes, the manufacturer would fall back upon wages, for he must either diminish the one or reduce the other. Such is the position of the country, that if we repeal the Corn-laws, or tariff duties, and open our ports, without at the same time lowering our taxes, trade cannot be carried on. Only just look at the home consumption. The goods consumed by the working classes of this country in 1845, amounted to £19,610,657—goods purchased by the working people out of their wages,—whilst in 1847, they expended only £9,500,000. A clear proof that they are the great consumers and producers in this country. The Home trade may well be bad, when so many are out of employment, and when their wages are reduced to nearly the minimum point. Remember, shopkeepers, that you can have little business while this state of things exists.

Mr. Cobden has justly observed;—"You must make this reduction in justice to the mass of the people, who must be placed, in reference to tax-

ation, on, at least, as just a footing as the people of other countries in Europe. There is no country in Europe, where so much of the taxation is paid on Articles consumed by the people. What is the amount of Income Tax which the mass of the people pay on articles which they constantly consume? We are quarreling over sevenpence in the pound in the form of Income Tax. But we shall find that the working people of this country pay on every pound sterling which they lay out upon tea a duty of 10s; for every 20s. which they lay out upon sugar, they pay 6s; for every 20s. upon coffee, 8s; for every 20s. upon soap, 5s; for every 20s. upon beer, 4s; for every 20s. upon tobacco, 16s; for every 20s. upon spirits, 14s. Now when you bear in mind that the working classes spend a much larger portion of their incomes upon these things, than people of our class do, you will see that this amounts to an income tax to them. They are not merely paying an income tax of sevenpence in the pound, but they are actually paying in some cases as much as 12s., 14s., and 16s. in the pound. In this country so much of our revenue is derived from the labouring classes, that when trade is growing bad in Lancashire or Yorkshire, instantly you have the Chancellor of the Exchequer telling you that the revenue is falling short, because the working classes from whom you derive more taxation than is derived from those of any other county, are involved in distress."

The question must soon be discussed whether the Administration shall be thoroughly reformed, or whether the nation shall sink into deeper difficulties. No nation on earth pays as much by one half in the shape of taxation as the English, and except the French, none even by one-fourth. One Englishman pays more for taxes than five Americans, or five Russians, and more than double those of Frenchmen. With such facts before the public mind, as presented by the following table, it is utterly impossible that things can long remain as they are:—

TAXATION PER HEAD PER ANNUM.

The United States	..	..	..	..	..	£0	9	7	
Russia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	9	9
Austria	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	11	6
Prussia	..	..	..	..	..	..	0	12	4
France	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	4	0
England	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	12	6

It behoves the government of the day to give earnest heed to the subject of their expenditure. It is not difficult to conceive of a state of things resulting from the waste and extravagance of successive Ministers, by which the credit of the country may be periled and the whole body of the creditors involved in one common ruin. Nothing but economy can ultimately save the crown! Nothing but speedy reform, and an *Extension of the Suffrage* can ultimately save the aristocracy, the pregnant source of vast and multitudinous national evils. It is common to designate the government of our country as one of monarchy, but it were much nearer the truth to describe it as that of an aristocracy. In all great purposes of National welfare, the Reform Bill has left us where we were. In some measure, indeed, we are even worse. With more *apparent* reality in our representation, there is actually more recklessness in the Government. The present state of our representation ought to arouse the indignation of the entire community. The Members of the Upper House still dictate and determine the proceedings of the Lower House. The simple fact, that nearly one half, 266 of the present House of Commons, are sons, grandsons, brothers, uncles, and cousins of Peers, and that 150 are officers &c.,

in the Army and Navy, or connected with them, settles the question as to the necessity of further reform. From such a House, what man of sense and experience can hope for justice to the people? There must be Reform. The Suffrage must be extended. The duration of Parliaments must be shortened. The burdens now pressing on the citizens of these islands, and crushing them down, cannot be sustained much longer.

Never forget the following great Facts:—

The Annual amount of our State Taxes, is nearly *Sixty Millions*

The amount of our Taxation for County Rates, Borough and Police Rates, and Poor Rates, with other similar charges, with the cost of collection, are *Fourteen Millions!* The sum total of general and local taxation is upwards of *Seventy Millions!*

Remember that the *profits* of seven hundred millions of National Capital are annually absorbed in taxes.

Such a state of things cannot always last. But for it we can expect no redress from a Legislature governed by an Aristocracy. The people have no influence in the House of Lords, and the House of Commons is practically the organ and instrument of the Peers.

The grand preventive of all reform is the *Law of Entail and Primogeniture*. At the conquest of England by the Norman William, the chief part of the land of the country was divided among his generals and friends. Possessing the land, they were determined to keep it in their families, and to keep their estates *entire*, that *one* portion of their families at least, might equal themselves in wealth and grandeur, and occupy the same dignity and power as themselves. To effect this they passed the Law of Entail and Primogeniture. This law ordains that the land shall never be sold; so that its owner cannot dispose of it to pay his debts, or to do good, nor can he divide it among his children. It must descend to one single individual. The injurious effect of this is to give undue influence to a few individuals in the empire. This makes the House of Commons, in a great measure, a nullity; for a considerable portion of its members are the great landholders, and the House of Lords is entirely under their control. The Law of Entail and primogeniture is opposed to all popular forms of government. So long as it exists, the government of this country must be an Oligarchy—the millions must be at the mercy of the few. This law prevents the proper cultivation and productiveness of the land. This is the case with the Aristocracy of this country. Generally speaking, their estates are so large, that they can afford to have vast tracts of country lying useless. Here they can have a park for deer, and there a cover for foxes, and in other parts vast tracts of land for game. Here they can make the fruitful field into a lake, or the garden into the wilderness, and suffer great portions to become a bog or morass. They have more land than they are able to look after, and the non-cultivation of it produces injurious effects. It *deprives man of labour*. "It is important to observe that every 100 acres of arable land capable and proper for the four-crop system of management, require for the cultivation and full development thereof, six able-bodied labourers. From a mass of information derived from different parts of the kingdom, I am convinced that the number so employed does not exceed three: the national loss is incalculable, both from the non-employment of labour, and the non-production of the soil." These remarks apply to land under cultivation. What a number of labourers would be required, if all the waste land of Britain could be brought under cultivation! If the land be uncultivated, there must be scarcity of provisions, which will prove injurious to trade; for when food is scarce and dear, people cannot obtain supplies of clothing, furniture, &c. Such are the effects of this abominable law.

The Law of Primogeniture, giving all, or nearly all, to the eldest son, hands over the younger branches to the charge of the public, to be supported as parsons, ambassadors, soldiers, sailors, &c. Hence a large standing army must be maintained, and an expensive navy kept up; sinecure places in connection with

government must be created and perpetuated; a corrupt church, caricaturing the religion of the Bible, must exist, that some of these younger sons may become Rectors, Deans, Archdeacons, Bishops, and Archbishops. The daughters of the Aristocracy cannot be officers, generals, admirals, government agents, or church dignitaries; but their *husbands* can, and places therefore are provided for them. And to meet the wants of others, *pensions* must be granted, and immense *salaries* given for very little services. Who support the army, the navy, the church, and the government? The people—the labouring classes principally—they are injured and plundered on all sides. Hence want and wretchedness are inevitable.

This law prevents from entering the army and navy the surplus populations of the middle and humble classes; for of promotion there is no chance in the face of the mass of aristocratic sons, nephews, cousins, and other relations, who must be provided for, in order to secure votes in the two houses of Parliament. As many possessing enormous fortunes cannot spend their money usefully to society, a vast amount of income is annually expended in things which give but little employment, while prodigious masses of gold and silver plate, amounting to untold millions, lie idly in family chests, which, were the fortunes divided, would find its way into circulation, and wonderfully facilitate commercial transactions. It is useless to say that every man should do as he wills with his own. Yes, if he can show us what is his. But a dead man can own nothing, and what he leaves behind is the property of those who remain. By what right, on what ground, on what basis of reason and common sense, is the eldest son entitled to one fraction more than the youngest born? The man who brings children into the world is bound if he can to maintain them; and the father who, with property in his possession, leaves one of his offspring in want, commits a manifest theft upon society, for he quarters Jack and Jem on you and me, for the benefit of William, who is no more entitled to it than the rest. It is quite time when men talk of their broad acres being "mine, and I have a right to do what I like with my own," to reply, "Show me your title-deeds, my Lord! have you the sign manual of God upon them, or even of Adam, to whom the Almighty gave the earth, for him and his descendants to gain their existence thereout, by the sweat of their brow? But you can show me nothing of the kind. Search your family history, and you will find that your broad acres came by rapine and violence, as the price for courtly service, as the despoiling of some monastery which held it for the poor, or by means still less reputable." Then where is the right of one set of men to the soil more than another? The Law of Entail and Primogeniture then must be regarded as a most foolish, absurd, and unnatural law; and it is productive of crime and wretchedness of every kind to a most fearful extent. It must be regarded as one of the great causes of our present distress, and the great barrier to reform, retrenchment, and reduction of taxation. The time has come for the people of this land to denounce this evil law. We must have done with aristocratical despotism, and that without delay. If the people of this country do not unite, and lift up their voice against the vile systems at present prevailing,—denounce the longer existence of a plundering and unprincipled Aristocracy—if they do not unite, and demand that the principles of common sense and common equity, shall be adopted as the rules of government, they will deserve to be oppressed for ever. Then, Britains, arouse you, and make instantly a decisive attack upon the corrupt Institutions of the land, and rest no more till you have based the government of the nation on principles of liberty, equality, and brotherhood!

The views of Mr. Buckingham on the True Principles of Taxation may now be added:—

1st. That the smallest amount of taxes, consistent with the safety of the state, should be taken from the people.—2nd. That the nature of the tax should be so simple and intelligible that the most uniuformd person coming under its operation should be able easily to understand it in all its bearings.—3rdly. That the tax should be as economical in its collection as possible.—4tibly. That the tax should be as much as possible of a

nature not to be secretly evaded.—5thly. That the tax should be as favorable as possible to the consumption of commodities.—And 6thly. That the tax should bear as strict a relation as possible to the means of the individuals who have to pay it. If these are the right principles of taxation, how far are they violated by the existing system? If the first rule were observed, we should at once get rid of some hundreds, nay, of some thousands of persons who are paid not merely for doing nothing, but whose existence is absolutely mischievous to the state. As to the army and navy, if they are really useful to us, there will be some excuse for maintaining them; but as Mr. Cobden has recently pointed out, the ships of war are all congregated where there is agreeable service, and not at other parts of the world where they are wanted, because the service is disagreeable. Three-fourths of the expenses of the army and navy might be saved. The collection of taxes is certainly not effected in the most economical manner—to wit, the custom houses, the coast guard, and the excise officers. The cost of collection is from 8 to 10 per cent on the whole amount of the taxes, while under a more equitable system of taxation, $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent would be sufficient.* The fourth is violated to a great extent, and it must be allowed that cheating the state is as highly immoral, as it is to steal. With respect to the fifth proposition, every body knows that if 3d. per lb. were levied upon cotton it would ruin the whole manufacture, and even when the small duty which existed formerly was taken off, it was hailed as a very great boon; and if the duties were taken off tea, coffee, and sugar, a much greater quantity of each would be consumed. At Liverpool it is said there are three million pounds weight of tea in the warehouse remaining under bond, because the market is such that the importers do not see a profit after paying the duty, but the moment the duty is reduced to a shilling, it will be taken out of bond and brought into the market. But let the duty be taken off altogether. The best qualities would then be sold at 2s. per lb. and the inferior at 1s. Those who drink inferior tea now would then drink the best, and hundreds and thousands who are not able to purchase at all would have the inferior qualities within their reach. Ships would immediately be sent off to China for more. But would they go empty? Would they not rather take with them cargoes of manufactured goods from Manchester, Leeds, and Glasgow? As to the sixth rule, was it not violated? The consequence is that by a very careful analysis which had been made of the taxes paid, and of the persons who paid them, it had been ascertained that the very richest people in the country do not pay quite 5 per cent upon their whole income, while a labourer, with his from £20 to £50 a year, paid 25 per cent at least. If a man with £100,000 per annum pays about 5 per cent only upon his income he does not feel it; but the poor man who

* A large amount of our annual expenditure is clandestine, and never passes under the investigation of Parliament. This has been proved by returns recently moved by Dr. Bowring. It appears of the gross receipts by revenue departments, in the year 1847, no less than £5,904,690 17 4d. were deducted by the officials, and never paid into the Exchequer. Nearly six millions of money taken from the people were never allowed to reach the Treasury, were subtracted from the efficient control of government and Parliament. Again, the sums received by departments of Expenditure from other sources than Parliamentary grants and issues from the Exchequer amounted one with another to £1,999,747 14 2d. In the course of one year no less than £7,004,438 11 7d. were collected and paid away by officers of governments *at their own discretion*, without instructions from the Minister of Finance, and a goodly part of it without any Parliamentary warrant for exacting the sums paid by the public. And mark, this is only a faint specimen of such clandestine proceedings.

has to pay 25 per cent and upwards, is kept down to the very lowest point of his existence. Can any thing be more unjust and atrocious than that the poor man should have to pay the same amount of duty for an inferior, than the rich, who could so much better afford it, paid for a superior article? If the principles of taxation which I have enumerated are sound, then the system now in existence is as bad as bad can be.

My proposition would be to make an income and property tax divisible into three ratios: first, those who derive their income from labour either of the hand or of the head, should pay the lowest rate of per centage. Another class who have not property in perpetuity, but are insured in a life interest, should be the next class, and pay a little higher; and those who should pay the highest of all are those who have property in land, or in the funds, independent of their labour, because they having the highest stake are bound to pay the highest proportion. Suppose there were fifty proprietors of a mill which should be burnt down—the proprietor who owned only a sixteenth could not be expected to contribute so much towards its restoration as the proprietor of a fourth. The only object of government should be to restrain disorder, and to protect person and property, and those who have the largest amount of property to be protected ought to pay the largest proportion towards the cost of protection.

Look at the great injustice inflicted on the community by the legacy and probate duties, and also the advertisement duty, especially as it regards the latter, with reference to the case of servants out of employ, who, in order to obtain a situation by advertizing, and so maintain an honest livelihood, must pay the same amount of duty as is paid by a nobleman wishing to sell an estate of £100,000. These things are part and parcel of a system which has descended to us from the feudal times, but they are monstrously unjust.

As it regards the proposed income tax, objections will doubtless be urged against it, on the ground of its being inquisitorial. It is so; but then look at the annoyance experienced at the customs, and receiving houses, and from the excise officers visiting many different establishments, and it will be evident that the present system of taxation far more inquisitorial than a tax upon income, levied as above proposed, could be. In the income-tax should be included all persons receiving £50 per annum, and taking higher leaps, pass then to persons in the receipt of £100 £150, £200, £500, &c. All customs, and all excise should be done away, and with them the smuggling, and the frauds, and the bribes which are now carried to an extent of which the public have very little conception. Let there also thus be free-trade in every thing.

We are now paying 28 millions per year for interest on the money spent on the wars which are past; the minister wants 20 millions more to pay for those which are to come, making 48 millions, whilst 54 millions is the amount of our total expenditure; proving that (as the wars in which the national debt was chiefly contracted were unnecessary, viz. the French Revolution and the American wars) the sum of six millions is amply sufficient to carry on the government of the country." Such are the opinions of Mr. Buckingham.

As it regards the Colonies, they do not pay for maintaining them. But if they are useful to this country—if they require protecting, some plan may surely be devised by which they may pay for that defence. The idea of holding colonies, rich in agricultural, mineral, and other advantages, at a great national loss, is absurd and ridiculous.

M. C. M.